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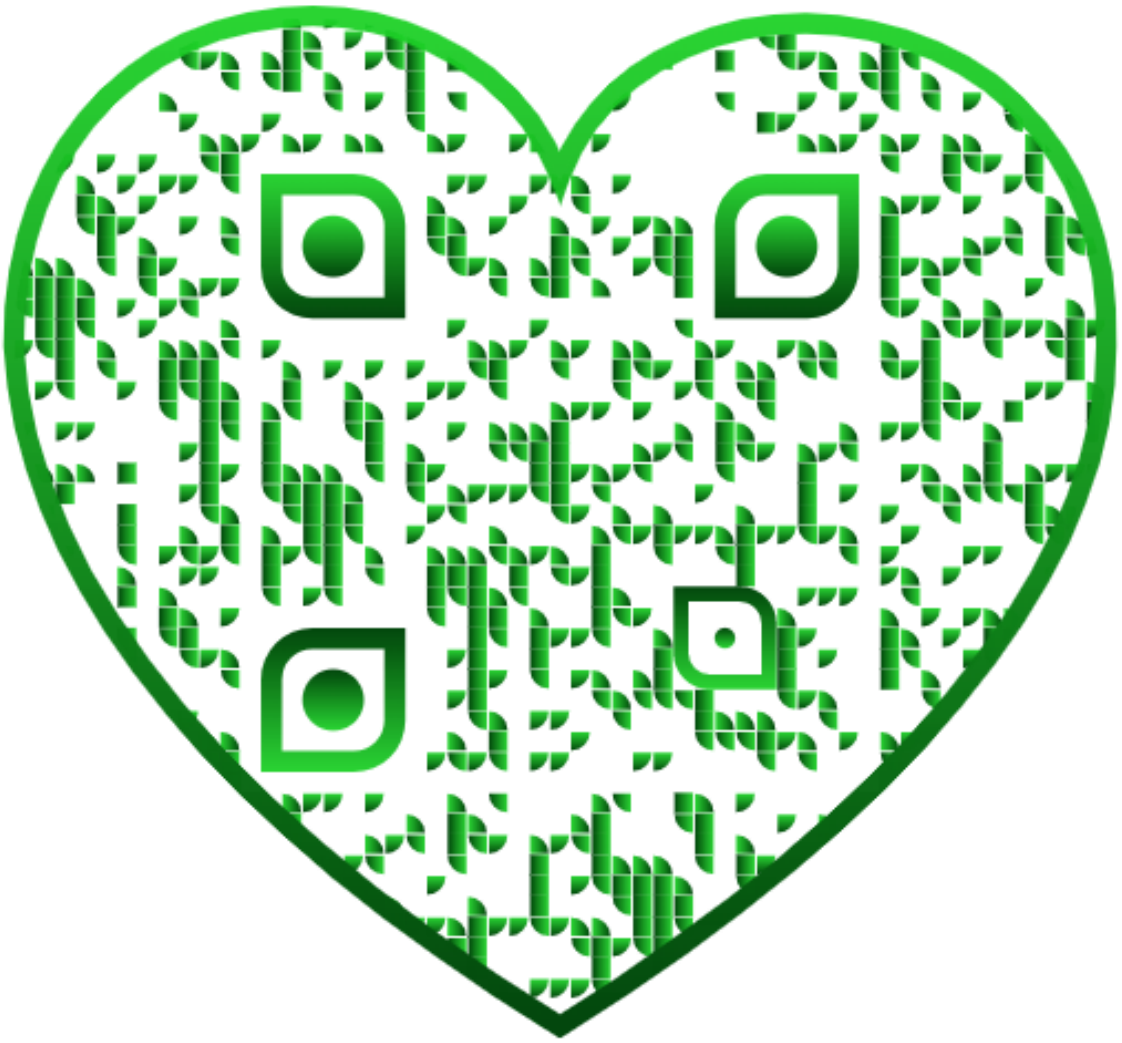
NME

NME AWARDS 2018 SPECIAL

DEFINITELY GODLIKE

LIAM GALLAGHER ON LAST YEAR, THIS YEAR AND BEING NME GODLIKE GENIUS 2018

+ ALL THE WINNERS FROM THE NIGHT OF THE YEAR



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NME

The *NME* review of Rejjie Snow's 'Dear Annie' p29

Hello...

THERE'S GODLIKE, AND then there's Liam Gallagher. LG has been an *NME* mainstay since the early 1990s, becoming a superstar as the frontman of one of the greatest British rock'n'roll bands of all time: Oasis. At Wednesday's VO5 NME Awards 2018, William John Paul Gallagher – and yes, that is his excellent, Beatles-referencing full name – received the highest honour we have and was named NME's Godlike Genius. It was a long time coming, but after the mega year he's had the timing seems utterly perfect. On Valentine's Night Liam bought the London's O2 Academy Brixton to its knees – and he'll continue to do the same over the coming months, with his epic Finsbury Park slot and numerous festival appearances. Read all about the show in next week's *NME*, alongside all the other marvellous mayhem – including live performances from Alt-J, Skepta, Stefflon Don and Pale Waves, as well as a heartfelt tribute to the late, great Mark E Smith. We are not worthy.

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

COVER STORY

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Liam Gallagher
It's like he once said: "They think I'm a big-mouthed c**t from Manchester, and they'd be correct."

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VO5 NME Award winners
Here they are. The victors. The champions. The greatest. The absolute boys (and girls).

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COVER PHOTO: DANNY NORTH. CONTENTS PHOTO: COLIN MEDLEY

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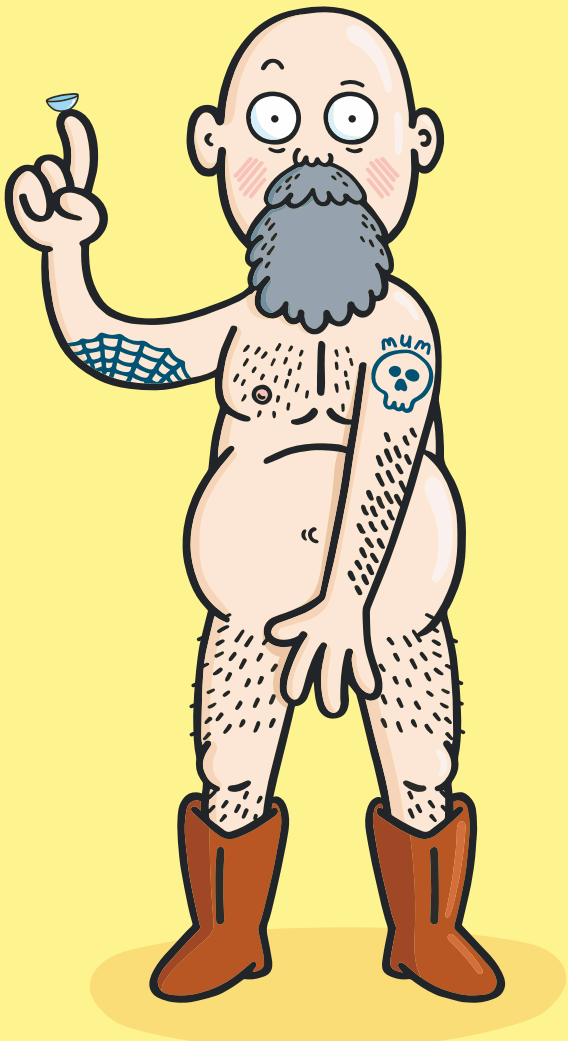

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

Damn, he's good

Last week: *Black Panther* soundtrack. This week: triumphant UK tour. This summer: headlining Reading & Leeds. Kendrick Lamar is an absolute champ

IT'S WISE IN MOMENTS OF euphoria to spare a second to take stock and try to find the right words to say. Opening the UK leg of his 'DAMN.' tour in Birmingham last Friday, Kendrick Lamar paused to rise above the surge of adoration to state, "We got something special going on here…"

He wasn't wrong. The Compton rapper – who executively produced the newly released *Black Panther* soundtrack – kept the night pumping with the sweetest pickings from his back catalogue: the effervescent 'King Kunta', the ballsy brilliance of 'Backseat Freestyle'. Then came the finest cuts from 'DAMN.' including the daring, snarling 'HUMBLE.', whose lyrics were sung back at the 30-year-old at deafening volume.

Kendrick last toured in the UK back in 2013, so this is special. The announcement that he's headlining Reading & Leeds even more so, given the only other rapper to have headlined the festivals is Eminem. This is the year of Kendrick. Sit down, be humble.

Kendrick Lamar plays Reading on August 25 and Leeds on August 26

The setlist

DNA.
ELEMENT.
King Kunta
untitled 07 | 2014 - 2016
New Freezer
Collard Greens
Swimming Pools (Drank)
Backseat Freestyle
LOYALTY.
FEEL. [Intro only]
LUST.
Money Trees
XXX.
m.A.A.d city
PRIDE.
LOVE.
Bitch, Don't Kill My Vibe
Alright
HUMBLE.
GOD.

WORDS: SAM MOORE. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TDE

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Chadwick Boseman as Black Panther

Claws out

***Black Panther* is the best Marvel film ever. Some of its key players explain why**

LUPITA NYONG'O AND DANAI GURIRA

This is the first major black superhero movie in years…
Danai: "Or ever?"

***Blade*, sort of?**
Lupita: "There's *Blade*."

And there are incredibly strong female characters. Was signing up for this a complete no-brainer?
Lupita: "Yes. Nakia is a war dog, which is an undercover spy for Wakanda. Her job is to go out into the world, observe and report back what's going on."
Danai: "Okoye is the general of the armed forces and head of the Dora Milaje, who are kind of like the Marines of the nation and protectorates of the throne, and hence of the stability of the nation. And once Ryan [Coogler] described his plan, I loved what I was hearing, but investing yourself artistically in something, to me, and to Lupita most definitely, it's a lot. You're giving your heart, soul and time to something, and it's going to be something [you'll be] a part of forever. It was definitely important, especially when it comes to portrayals of Africans. I'm a play-writer; Lupita has worked so much in this field as well that from the African perspective we want to see really rich, specific characters drawn. So that was very important to us. But after sitting down with Ryan and hearing what he had to say, and his thoughts on his way of doing it and this world he was creating, it was a complete no-brainer."

L-r: Okoye (Danai Gurira), Nakia (Lupita Nyong'o)

You've both got African heritage. The vision of Wakanda is as this Afro-futuristic place that you just want to visit. Were you happy with the way Africa was portrayed?
Lupita: "Yeah, and I love the fact that this fictitious nation that really propels us into the future is based on real, African influences. There was a lot of research that was done, and lots of influences from real cultures around the continent, and for the first time we are allowed to just luxuriate in the wealth of real African culture in this story. And that's really powerful, and about time."

One of the scenes that got a big howl at the cinema was when you threw your wig at an assailant. Do you think this will become a fighting technique?
Danai: "Why not? A wig as a weapon? It's time."

Daniel Kaluuya, who plays W'Kabi, is nominated for an Oscar. Have you, Lupita [who won Best Supporting Actress in 2013 for *12 Years A Slave*], given him any advice on how to prepare an acceptance speech?
Lupita: "I think he can take care of himself. However, I have told him he ought to eat before he gets on that carpet, and then he ought to have a snack in his pocket…"
Danai: "…and he should take Danai as his date."

There's surely going to be a *Black Panther 2*. Will you be in it?
Lupita: "If I'm not, there's going to be a problem on Marvel's hands."

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GEAR OF THE YEAR 2017 AWARDS Practical Photography WINNER

Nikon

Ryan Coogler (left) and Chadwick Boseman on set

RYAN COOGLER, DIRECTOR

Just when you think superhero films are running out of steam, one like this comes along. Do you think there's a collective sigh of relief that finally there's a black superhero we can get behind?
"We've had black superheroes that I love, like Blade – I love the *Blade* films, and I love Guillermo [del Toro]'s take on *Blade* as well. But it's a lot with *Black Panther* you know, I think it's in the zeitgeist right now."

There are gender and race politics in there. It feels like an important film as well as being fun.
"We definitely wanted to hit all of that stuff, and we wanted to pull from all those things that in the books highlight it and make it unique. And we definitely wanted the film to be unique. The African setting, Wakanda, is a fictional place, and trying to infuse the film with as much culture from the continent as we could enabled us to both make the film unique in terms of the last couple of comic book films, but also in terms of films of this scope, and films with this budget, and with this kind of studio behind them. It's the part of it that feels for audiences unique and feels refreshing."

What was it like working with Kendrick Lamar on the soundtrack?
"Most of the music in the film is from our composer Ludwig Göranssown, who I've been collaborating with since I was in film school. And Ludwig is amazing. Working with Kendrick was fantastic too, and it was something me and Ludwig always wanted to do with the film was to get with an artist and make a soundtrack that's a companion piece, but a different artistic take inspired by the same themes and the film. And we used some of those songs in the film that we weave in and out. Kendrick's a brilliant artist, I met him before working on this film, we had met and said to ourselves and the head of the company, 'If we ever get the chance to work on something, if the time is out, we definitely should look at that,' and it ended up timing out on this. He was just fantastic to work with. We also got the chance to work with The Weeknd too."

The waterfall fighting scenes are great. Reckon it could be an event in the next Olympics?
"It's a little dangerous, man! If they could find a way to not have people's lives on the line… But yeah, I'd watch it if they could find a way to make it safe!" **NME**

***Black Panther* is in cinemas now. Read the *NME* review on NME.com**

INTERVIEWS: DAN STUBBS. PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

AGENDA

GOOD WEEK

SKEPTA
Starred in a very good new Nike ad and everyone bloody loved it.

LANA DEL REY
Revealed she's currently writing a musical for Broadway. Expect ultimate fabulousness.

MARK E SMITH
The Fall frontman's wake reportedly turned into a brawl. An ex-bandmate said "he'd have loved it".

PETER RABBIT
Accused of 'allergy bullying' after a character was pelted with berries. Naughty bunny.

BAD WEEK

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KOJO FUNDS • CREEPER • WATERPARKS
HUDSON TAYLOR • DREAM WIFE • MS BANKS

SATURDAY READING • SUNDAY LEEDS

KENDRICK LAMAR • PANIC! AT THE DISCO
DUA LIPA • SUM 41 • SIGRID
NETSKY B2B JAUZ B2B SLUSHII • BROCKHAMPTON
WRETCH 32 • YUNGEN • PAPA ROACH • PLAYBOI CARTI
THE MAGIC GANG • PALE WAVES • A BOOGIE WIT DA HOODIE
BEARTOOTH • NOTHING,NOWHERE

SUNDAY READING • FRIDAY LEEDS

KINGS OF LEON • COURTEENERS • SKEPTA
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SOLANGE

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alt-J

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ON THE RECORD

BIG OPINIONS. NO FILTER.

THIS WEEK

F**k the Oscars, the NME Awards are the most fabulous night of the year

Pete and Kate: the only people ever to be thrown out of the NME Awards

THERE ARE MANY GREAT things about working for *NME*. There are the endless opportunities to make an idiot out of yourself in front of your heroes – Patti Smith, Poly Styrene and Debbie Harry included; the chance to go to gigs every single night of the week; and the close proximity of the office to Borough Market, meaning I can regularly have world-beating cheese toasties for lunch and the occasional overpriced chocolate-stuffed doughnut. Perhaps greatest of all, though, is the annual NME Awards, a night of next-level debauchery, famous people doing silly things, incredible music and, not forgetting, lots of hard work. I've clambered up the ranks and been given a slightly more important job every year. A decade ago I was mainly chasing the likes of Alex Turner and Teddy Sheringham around the room asking for silly quotes while simultaneously minesweeping tables for leftover whiskey and trying to get Sarah Harding to give me my lip gloss back. But last year I was holed up in the hallowed green room, interviewing all our lovely guests straight after they came off stage. This meant I was chatting to everyone from Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, Wiley, M.I.A., Dua Lipa, Louis Theroux, *Fleabag*'s Phoebe Waller-Bridge and Skepta – who, quite fabulously, mistook his bottle of Jameson for a microphone. We've all been there, Skepta. By the time you read this, this year's event will have already happened and I'll hopefully be through the worst of the hangover and just about able to keep solids down. But for now, here are some personal highlights from years gone past, not including the time a member of an unnamed indie band made me cry for daring to interview him. Oh dear.

"Skepta mistook his Jameson for a mic. We've all been there"

2007: When Kate Moss and Pete Doherty were asked to leave the ceremony early after being, erm, 'overly amorous'. Bear in mind it takes *a lot* to be thrown out of the NME Awards, so this was impressive work.

2009: When The Cure played their closing set and a mystery man – some say he worked in 'accounts' – lay down across a table by the stage and proceeded to have endless bottles of wine and jugs of beer poured over him as he gleefully writhed around. The video is still on YouTube and it's still amazing.

2016: When I refused to stop hugging Run The Jewels' Killer Mike and tried to convince El-P to let my cat make a guest appearance on their 'Meow The Jewels' project. As of yet, my cat has not featured on any major-label rap records. Here's hoping we can finally make that happen at this year's bash. **@leoniemaycooper**

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Last W33K IN NUMBERS

7
Years Dua Lipa had to wait to meet Katy Perry again, after jumping up onstage with her when she was 15.

99
Height in metres of the Tate Modern's chimney, which Tom Cruise scaled for a *Mission Impossible: 6* stunt.

4,768,000
Views episode one of *Blue Planet II* had on iPlayer, the biggest of any BBC show last year. Attenborough FTW.

22
Years since Alan Partridge had a chat show on TV. He's back in 2018 with *This Time With Alan Partridge*.

SMOOTHER ON THE INSIDE

Please enjoy responsibly. for the facts drinkaware.co.uk

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THINGS WE LIKE

THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE

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Coco drops
Coco is Pixar's smasher of a new film – get the book, too.
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Sounds good
The *Coco* soundtrack will transport your ears straight to Mexico.
£11.99 *in-store and hmv.com*

Holy matrimony
Susie Bick is The Vampire's – and Nick Cave's – Wife and this is her latest exclusive tee.
£125 *thevampireswife.com*

Hard as nails
Get some super-slick nails with Orly's new Breathable range of polishes.
£12 *orlybeauty.co.uk*

Star fish
Vince Staples has teamed up with Converse for some kicks inspired by 'Big Fish Theory'.
£80 *converse.com*

Desert daze
Stoner and doom Desertfest's new Desertscene merch includes this heavy hoodie.
£33 *desertfest.co.uk*

Spirit level
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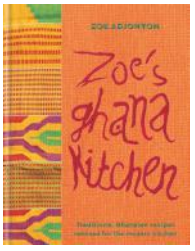
£26.75
thewhiskyexchange.com



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What's on your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Wakefield

"Crux is the best music venue in town"

‹ AMY LILLEY

26, venue co-ordinator

Listening to:
OUGHT
These 3 Things
"They're going on tour with Drahla in April and I'm really excited."

Wearing: Zara jumper, M&S skirt, Dr. Martens boots.
Best thing about Wakefield: "There's an Artwalk every couple of months that's really interesting."

CHARLIE PADFIELD ›

21, unemployed

Listening to:
JIMI HENDRIX EXPERIENCE
Stone Free
"He's been a big influence on my guitar-playing and the way I look at things in general."

Wearing: Vintage coat, Burberry scarf, Converse trainers.
Best thing about Wakefield: "Crux is the best music venue in town."

‹ JESSICA KENDALL

25, gallery assistant

Listening to:
LED ZEPPELIN
Over The Hills And Far Away
"It's a song that I grew up with. Timeless."

Wearing: Topshop coat, Zara trousers, Dr. Martens shoes.
Best thing about Wakefield: "Obviously the Hepworth Wakefield is a big attraction."

PHOTOS: DAVID WALA

ALAN NUTTON ›

36, record store owner

Listening to:
EVIDENCE
Weather Or Not
"I can't stop playing it!"

Wearing: H&M jacket, shirt and jeans.
Best thing about Wakefield: "Wakefield Jazz Club is definitely worth a visit."

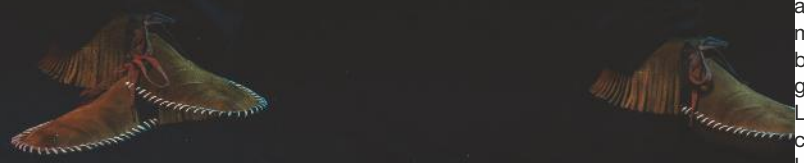
NME AWARDS 2018

PHOTOS BY DANNY NORTH

GENIUS

Liam Gallagher has had a biblical 12 months. He's resurrected his career, become a national treasure, usurped Noel in the nation's affections and amassed gazillions of new fans. There have been epic live shows, the massive-selling album 'As You Were', his first-ever crowd surf, and now *NME*'s Godlike Genius Award.

How's he done it? And what's next? "I can still muster up that rock'n'roll temper at the drop of a fking hat," he tells Jordan Bassett**



FEBRUARY 19, 2017 ANNOUNCES HIS COMEBACK ON TWITTER

A year ago, Liam sent his 2.8 million Twitter followers wild with a missive confirming we were in for new material: "LFUKING is on his way". This came after he'd previously claimed that he would never go solo because he's "not a c**t". What changed? "I mean, I wouldn't say I'm a solo artist," he counters. "That word 'artist' gets on my t**s. I'll leave that for the likes of Paul Weller and f**king Noel Gallagher. I still feel like I'm a rock'n'roll singer in a band, d'you know what I mean?"

Still, it remains true that, after four years in the wilderness, the comeback came about because he'd written two new tracks, 'Bold' and 'When I'm In Need'. His record label, Warner, was impressed and asked if he would work with a team of songwriters that included, among others, Greg Kurstin (who co-wrote 'Hello' with a little-known singer named Adele). "I said, 'Yeah, I'm gonna have to, because I haven't got any songs,'" he says. So Liam flew to Los Angeles, where he, Kurstin and ace producer Andrew Wyatt smashed through three new tracks in as many days. Some purists have criticised him for working with what Noel once termed "an army of songwriters", but he's having none of that.

"Well, I didn't write any of Oasis and that seemed to work," he says. "I feel more comfortable when I'm singing. I'm not a songwriter – I don't know how it works, but I can do my little bit." He lands on a football metaphor. "[Manchester City striker] Sergio Agüero doesn't defend – he might not be an all-round footballer – but he still puts the ball in the back of the f**king net. And that's how I'm seeing it. So get that down your f**king neck, Noel."

MAY 30, 2017 MAKES HIS LIVE RETURN AT THE MANCHESTER RITZ

Liam made his live comeback at the 1,500-capacity O2 Ritz Manchester, tearing through the new album – alongside some Oasis bangers – for the very first time. Original Oasis guitarist Bonehead, looking steezy in circular shades, even appeared for a triumphant closing rendition of 'D'You Know What I Mean?'. Was he nervous about that performance, given that it marked his return? "A little bit nervous, but not to the point where you wanna go home and cry behind your sofa," Liam says. "I always know that the crowd is gonna be up for it. I think people missed me.

What about the next 12 months?

Liam's got big plans

HIS SECOND SOLO ALBUM

Liam's going back into the studio in April. What will the follow-up to 'As You Were' sound like? "A bit more up-tempo," he says. "A bit more in-yer-face. Less apologetic. I'd love to do a proper out-and-out punk rock album – a bit Pistols, a bit Stooges. I can do that gear; I can definitely sing 'em. Some of the sing-y songs are a bit of a struggle when I do 'em live. But the lippy ones I can do all day long. The ones where you spit 'em out. You're not necessarily singing, you're just f**king screaming and shouting. I'm all for that."

DIFFERENT OASIS SONGS AT THE LIVE SHOWS

"'Champagne Supernova' might come out. 'Cast No Shadow', 'Bring It On Down' – the world is my oyster with all them."

NO POTATO PEELERS AT PARKLIFE

The festival banned them soon after announcing that Liam was playing. Last year, Noel appeared on *Later… With Jools Holland* with a scissor player in his band, so Liam joked he'd have a peeler player at his shows. Lo and behold, someone turned up to a gig with one in hand. "It's a shame they've been banned, man. They're good for chopping things out and that [mimes chopping out cocaine]. It's not all about peeling potatoes, is it?"

"I'D RATHER A CHAT THAN A SELFIE. OR EVEN A FKING CUDDLE"**

And I'm always up for it." Does Liam get emotional when he plays Oasis tracks? "Yeah, it's always emotional singing them songs," he says. "It does bring up a lot of emotions and that. But with certain songs, you muster up your rock'n'roll temper. I can still muster up that rock'n'roll temper at the drop of a f**king hat."

JUNE 4, 2017 SINGS 'LIVE FOREVER' AT ONE LOVE MANCHESTER

At the One Love Manchester benefit concert, Liam performed 'Live Forever' with Chris Martin, whom he'd previously said "looks like a geography teacher". Are the pair cool now? "I wouldn't say we're 'cool now'," Liam says. "I apologised on the night because it was the right thing to do with what's gone down and that. It was only banter anyway. I apologised and we moved on. But we don't go out running together and do yoga together, or eat ice cream together." Has Liam ever done yoga? "I done it once and I got stuck. The little geezer was laughing at me, so I thought, 'I'm taking my mat and I'm off.'"

AUGUST 10, 2017 RELEASES THE WEEPY 'FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH'

"It's [an apology] to me mam and to me kids for f**king s**t up along the way," he says. "One minute you're living with them, then the marriage breaks down because of my stupid behaviour and their lives change, don't they?" Robbie Williams, with whom Liam had beef throughout the '90s, recently told *NME* that the track was his favourite of 2017. It turns out Liam's read the interview. "Yeah, I get it, man," he says. "I think what he said was right: it's universal, it's classic, it's instant." Robbie also said he'd like to duet on the track. Liam's not so sure. "Right, I'm sure he does. It's not happening, is it? Fair play to him, he's got his kids now and all that stuff's under the bridge. We grow up and do our thing, but I don't think me and him singing together would be a wise move."

OCTOBER 6, 2017 DROPS NEW ALBUM 'AS YOU WERE'

'As You Were' surprised many with its tight pop melodies. If it hadn't done well, he reckons he might have "gone into acting", so the only downside to the record going platinum is perhaps that we now probably won't see Liam Gallagher do a stint on *Coronation Street*. "I thought the album might bomb," he says. "That people might have had enough of me and I'd have to start f**king sewing at Pretty Green [his fashion label]. If the album bombs, you can't do gigs. The second Beady Eye one didn't f**king work. The gigs were getting smaller. That's why we

knocked it on the head. There was no point doing a third one – we'd be playing f**king pubs." This summer, he's due to play a sold-out show at north London's 40,000-capacity Finsbury Park – which not exactly an open mic night down The Dog and Duck, is it?

OCTOBER 7, 2017 CROWDSURFS AT A FOO FIGHTERS SHOW

Aged 45 years and 16 days old, Liam crowdsurfed for the first time at Foo Fighters' Californian festival CalJam, while performing 'Come Together' with Dave Grohl and assorted chums. "They asked [me] to a do a song with them," he says, "but I didn't know the words, so I thought, 'F**k it, I'm getting out of here'. Some Foo Fighters fans were booing me during the gig, so I landed some bombs on their 'eads. I was just lying there, thinking, 'You're f**king booing me? Boo me now, you c**t.'"

DECEMBER 19, 2017 TRIES A CHRISTMAS PATCH-UP WITH NOEL

The brothers are, he says, "not in a good place". They've spent the past year trading public insults, though in December Liam tweeted that they were "all good again". It was widely believed that they'd called a truce, but Liam says that wasn't the case. "In my head [we called a truce]. 'Cos it's Christmas innit and me mam's always going, 'Look, calm down,' so I had a couple of drinks and thought, you know, I'll put it out there. But it's not happening, is it?" There was also a rumour the brothers had patched it up at swanky London hangout Chiltern Firehouse. "No, no – I went there and he wasn't there," Liam says. "He wasn't meant to be there, but that's where him and all his posh mates go, so I thought I'd steam down there and see what they gotta say. I just went down there lookin' for a bit of trouble and that but there was none of 'em about. They were all probably at home, counting their money." He concludes, "We've not made up," and describes Noel's "silly" recent album 'Who Built The Moon?' as "cosmic pop" that's "like a s**t Kula Shaker". It seems the reunion will have to wait.

JANUARY 7, 2018 REVEALS ON TWITTER THAT HE REACHED OUT TO OASIS (WITHOUT NOEL)

When his post-Oasis band, Beady Eye, fell apart, Liam reached out to the former Oasis line-up – Bonehead, drummer Alan White and bassist Paul McGuigan – and was similarly dismissed. "I might have been drunk and rung 'em up and gone, 'Shall we do something?'" he says. "I said, 'We've all gotta do it'. We'd have to get someone to do Noel's parts, which wouldn't be hard. It would have been good. But they're all happy doing what they're doing, so they blanked me. Well, Bonehead was up for it."

All my people, right here, right now

Liam's 2018 live dates

JUNE
Sun 10
Parklife Festival, Manchester.

Sat 16
Belsonic, Belfast.

Sat 23
Isle Of Wight Festival.

Fri 29
Finsbury Park, London

JANUARY 15, 2018 GOES ON A LOVELY HOLIDAY IN THAILAND

What does a Liam Gallagher holiday look like? "I don't read books or any of that stuff," he says. "I just fart about in the pool – literally." Liam can't swim, but this pool was OK because "it doesn't have a deep end… If it went out to the sea, that'd be me." He was, naturally, accosted by fans on holiday. In general he enjoys the attention, though on this occasion "a woman was like, 'My newborn baby's got all your records'. I was like, 'F**k off, she's two days old. Not havin' that – f**kin' do one.'" He spends a lot of time having selfies with fans. "I'd rather have a five-minute chat than that," he says. "'Where'd you get them trainers from? That's a cool jacket. No, me name's Liam, it ain't Noel.' I'd rather that and a f**king shake of a hand than a selfie. Or even a f**king cuddle."

FEBRUARY 14, 2018 PICKS UP NME'S GODLIKE GENIUS AWARD

Now, of course, there's the small matter of being crowned Godlike Genius at the VO5 NME Awards. Noel won the award back in 2012 – a fact Liam isn't quite willing to let slide. "Wait until I get on that stage at the NME Awards," he says. "You're gonna f**king know about it. You can't give it to one without the f**king other, man! I was like, 'You cheeky f**king c**ts, man.' But all is forgiven." Admittedly, the title might not have done much for their sibling rivalry. "Two Godlike Geniuses in my family – and then people wonder why we don't f**king speak," he says, before acting out an argument between himself and Noel.

"'I'm Godlike.'"

"'No – *I'm* Godlike.'"

"'Well, it f**king says *I'm* Godlike.'"

"'Right, well I'm a f**king genius.'"

"'I'm a f**king genius too!'"

Liam Gallagher has re-entered pop culture as one of British rock's all-time greats. He may joke about at his delay in receiving Godlike Genius status but, like this whole comeback, it's better late than never. As he puts it, "Save the best 'til last, mate."

NME

VO5 NME AWARDS 2018

ALL THE WINNERS FROM THE ONLY AWARD CEREMONY THAT ACTUALLY REALLY MATTERS

L-r: Thom Sonny Green, Joe Newman, Gus Unger-Hamilton

BEST BRITISH BAND

SUPPORTED BY ZIG-ZAG

ALT-J

A brief history of an amazing career

May 2012
THE AMAZING DEBUT
'An Awesome Wave' was as delightful as it was weird. After forming at Leeds Uni they used their 2012 debut to prove quirkiness doesn't have to be cringey by mixing up club bangers with obscure electronica, choral music, literary references and some serious soundscapes.

November 2012
THE MERCURY
They only went and beat Jessie Ware, The Maccabees and Ben Howard, didn't they? They were nominated again in 2017 for their third album, the legends.

January 2014
THE DESERTER
Guitarist and bass player Gwil Sainsbury left the group but the band valiantly carried on as a trio.

June 2014
THE MILEY CYRUS SAMPLE
'Hunger Of The Pine', the first single from their second album, foxed the purists when it transpired that it was a sample not of some obscure 1970s funk singer, but of pop hero Miley Cyrus. It was further evidence that the Brit band had totally broken America, alongside killing it at Coachella and getting a Grammy nomination.

December 2016
THE UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE APPEARANCE
Keyboard player Gus Unger-Hamilton repped Leeds Uni on *Christmas University Challenge* and proved what we all knew: these dudes are clever. Starter for 10, for sure.

June 2017
THE GLASTO TRIUMPH
They headlined the Other Stage and took the whole crowd on an epic journey through space and time. Well, that's what it felt like to us. Emily Eavis has said they're in the running to head up the Pyramid in the future.

January 2018
THE WEIRD SHOWS
This summer in New York the band will be playing an immersive sound show. WTF is that, we hear you ask? Well, the Forest Hills Stadium gig will be engaging hyperrealism technology to make a show that sounds unlike any before. Bring it to the UK, yeah, lads? If only so we can work out just what it actually is.

VO5

NME AWARDS 2018

NME AWARD FOR INNOVATION

BOY BETTER KNOW

Six times the grime collective flipped the script

THEY DID IT THEMSELVES
Staunchly DIY, BBK launched their own label in 2005 and brought the mainstream to them, upending the music industry's power dynamic.

THEY TOOK OVER THE O2
A$AP Rocky and J Hus! Five-a-side football! A roller disco for some reason! BBK owned the arena for one Sunday last August.

WILEY RELEASED HIS 'FINAL' ALBUM TWICE
2014's 'Snakes & Ladders' was his 'final' record, then it was 2017's 'Godfather'. 'Godfather II' is expected this year.

SKEPTA BROUGHT BACK GRILLS
Skeppy is often seen teaming grills with shades and winter hats. He's more accessory than man.

JME MADE POKÉMON COOL AGAIN
Jme arranged to swap fans' cards for gold-coloured vinyl of his album 'Integrity'. Pika pika!

THEY SIGNED UP BLOODY DRAKE
The Toronto superstar is a bona fide BBK fan and so joined the collective as an honorary member and even performed with them in London. His hotline blinged and he came a-running.

BEST TRACK

SUPPORTED BY Estrella Galicia

CHARLI XCX 'BOYS'

Three nerdy facts about 'Boys'

1 CHARLI LOVES THE GEMMA COLLINS 'REMIX'
And said the fan-made version was "better than the original".

2 THE SONG SAMPLES *SUPER MARIO*
"I knew that sound was going to either drive people totally crazy or people were going to be obsessed with it," Charli told Triple J.

3 THERE WAS ONE BOY SHE COULDN'T GET FOR THE VIDEO
She told Twitter she wanted Seth Rogen to recreate Britney Spears' python pose, but no.

BEST NEW ARTIST

SUPPORTED BY VANS "OFF THE WALL"

STEFFLON DON

Everything you need to know about UK rap's newest hero

Name: Stephanie Allen
Age: 26
From: East London via Holland and Birmingham
Previous employment: Cake decorator, hairdresser
Instagram followers: 419,000
Best tune: The slow-burning 'Hurtin' Me' is hotter than an August spent in a sauna in Magaluf.
Biggest collab: At the end of 2017 Steff joined forces with Skepta for the super-rude and super-brilliant 'Ding-A-Ling'. Yes, it's about that kind of ding-a-ling. No, you won't want to sing it in front of your mum.
What's next: After inking a record contract for £1 million, she's currently working on her debut album. There's also a Drake collaboration which we're itching to hear, but hasn't yet seen the light of day.
She says: "I feel like there should be someone to stick up for women and make them feel good and beautiful about themselves."

BEST BRITISH SOLO ARTIST

SUPPORTED BY NME

LOYLE CARNER

He's clever, he's talented and he's here to give you some words of wisdom

DO YOUR OWN THING
"Don't care about what your friends or other people are doing. Half of them you won't be hanging out with later in life. The other half, if they're doing well, they won't have anything to do with you. So go and do your own thing."

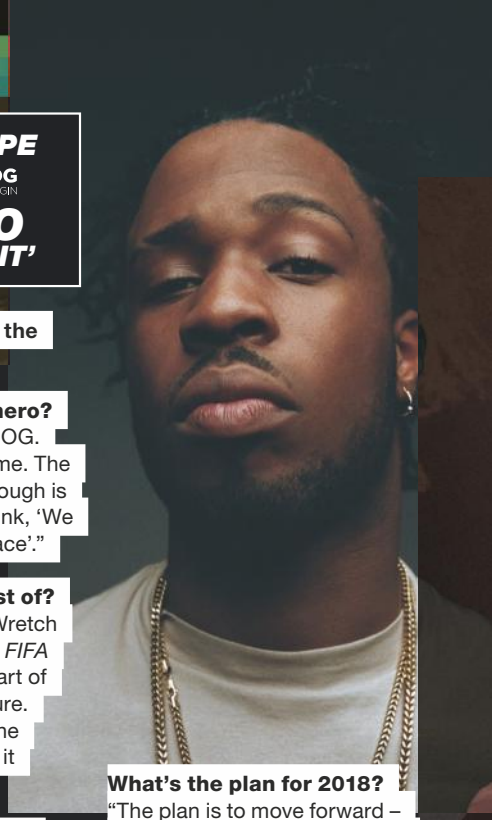
BE COMFORTABLE WITH YOURSELF
"Friendship and social life is very important. But also, make sure that your self is something, and you can stand on your own if you have to."

ADMIT YOU DON'T KNOW ST**
"Admitting that you don't know things is much better than thinking that you know, and then finding out in three years that you don't."

BEST MIXTAPE

SUPPORTED BY BULLDOG LONDON DRY GIN

AVELINO 'NO BULLSHIT'



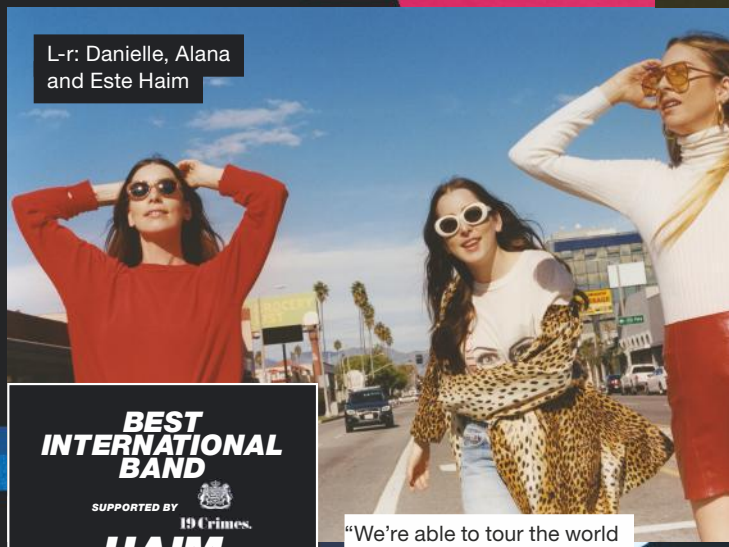
One-on-one time with the Tottenham MC

Who's your ultimate hero?
"Jay-Z. He's everyone's OG. He's stood the test of time. The most important thing though is that I look at him and think, 'We come from the same place'."

What are you proudest of?
"Doing a mixtape with Wretch 32 or launching the new *FIFA* game, because that's part of my upbringing and culture. Seeing Ronaldo tweet the game with my music on it was amazing."

How long have you been making music?
"I was 15 when I started and I'm 24 now – almost a decade, but they call me the new kid! But all the years I've been in the studio, I see it as training to get better. I draw inspiration from athletes a lot."

What's the plan for 2018?
"The plan is to move forward – progress is the most important thing at all times. I'm just gonna be relentless! I'm young, but I feel lyrically and technically seasoned. I've also got a cooking lesson with my mum tomorrow – she's going to show me a few things. I'm going to get into cooking. She does this incredible pasta that's like marinated in… things."



L-r: Danielle, Alana and Este Haim

BEST INTERNATIONAL BAND

SUPPORTED BY 19 Crimes

HAIM

Amazing music, spectacular quotations. The sisters' best proclamations of 2017

"I'm spry as f**k! And I'm sassier than ever, if that's possible."
Este (bass, vocals)

"We're able to tour the world and we're also the CEOs of a company. So right now, we really feel like strong, empowered women."
Danielle (vocals, guitars)

"No one is going to make me feel anything other than a powerful woman."
Alana (guitars, keyboards, vocals)

UNDER THE RADAR AWARD

SUPPORTED BY hmv

PALE WAVES

Allow them to introduce themselves

WE'VE TOURED WITH THE 1975

Heather Baron-Gracie (singer): "It was pretty surreal. We were all very nervous every night but it was just fantastic. Their fans are so into anything and ready to hear new music. Any band would kill for that opportunity."

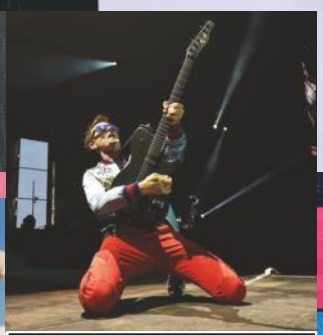
WE DON'T SOUND LIKE YOU'D EXPECT

HBG: "Our image doesn't exactly represent the way our music sounds. A lot of people think we play hardcore."
Ciara Doran (drummer): "We 'gothbait' people, apparently."
HBG: "What even is that? We make pop music."

WE'VE GOT A PACKED 2018

CD: "We're recording an album and it's coming out later in the year. We're doing a lot more touring…"
HBG: "…festivals, music videos – we're not stopping really."

L-r: Hugo Silvani, Ciara Doran, Heather Baron-Gracie, Charlie Wood



BEST FESTIVAL HEADLINER

SUPPORTED BY Anna Valley

MUSE

Singer Matt Bellamy on why Muse are quite so flipping brilliant at the top of the bill

"With Reading, especially when you're headlining the final night, it can't be too subtle. We're very good at not being subtle, so that's been our secret, to just lay it on thick. Play all the riffs. Play all the heavy riffs. And just jam what you can and keep everyone pumped. That's the key. In the daytime you can be a bit more dreamy or lovey, but we tend to go pretty dark-side and heavy and that tends to be what works."

BEST INTERNATIONAL SOLO ARTIST

LORDE

The stars gush about why 21-year-old Ella Yelich-O'Connor is their favourite songwriter

MAX MARTIN CALLED 'GREEN LIGHT' "INCORRECT SONGWRITING"

Lorde revealed that the Swedish songwriting extraordinaire uttered the memorable phrase when she first played him the song. She added that it "wasn't an insult, just a statement of fact".

DAVID BOWIE RATED HER

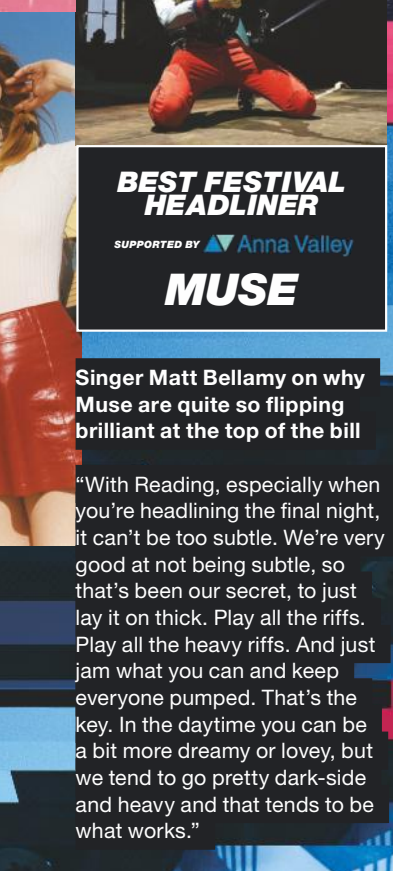
When Lorde performed a tribute to the late genius at the BRITs in 2016, his longtime pianist Mike Garson revealed that Bowie had dubbed her "the future of music". He knew his stuff, you know.

SHE'S ONE OF TAYLOR SWIFT'S BFFS

As she introduced Lorde onstage in Washington DC, Taylor described the musician as "one of my best friends in the entire world". That's one squad you definitely don't want to mess with.

JACK ANTONOFF WON'T SHUT UP ABOUT HER

The Bleachers frontman co-wrote 'Green Light' and recently explained, "We've introduced each other to a lot of things… She taught me class." Yeah, she's a wise woman alright.



BEST LIVE ARTIST

SUPPORTED BY Nikon

KASABIAN

The five stages of a Kasabian show. There's nothing quite like it

1 A BIT OF AN "OOSH!"
At some point, inevitably, Kasabian will perform their 2004 anthem 'Club Foot' and you, refreshed reader, will throw your arms around a stranger and bawl "*OOSH!*" like the legend you are.

2 A "SERGIO!" CHANT
Guitarist Serge will cool it with a lilting acoustic number, almost completely drowned out when fans bellow "Sergiooo!" at him. A sign of success: nicknamed by strangers.

3 YOU'LL HAVE A LITTLE CRY...
Kasabian go Quo on 'Bless This Acid House', a spit-and-sawdust celebration of domesticity. Marvel as grown adults blub into their booze, contemplating the warm embrace of their own acid house.

4 ...AND THEN TAUNT SERGE
You'll quote the track 'Ill Ray (The King)' and ask, "*What's your band called, mate?*" Because you haven't gone soft or anything.

5 A 'FIRE' ENDING
Kasabian often bow out with 'Fire', their 2009 ode to having the absolute bloody time of your little life. Douse yourself down and avoid open flames: you'll never be same after tonight.

L-r: Tom Meighan, Serge Pizzorno

WORDS: JORDAN BASSETT, LEONIE COOPER, LARRY BARTLEET, ANDREW TRENDELL
PHOTOS: DEAN CHALKLEY, OLIVIA ROSE, JORDAN CURTIS HUGHES, GETTY IMAGES, JOSEPH CULTICE

BEST ALBUM

SUPPORTED BY ORANGE

J HUS 'COMMON SENSE'

His music's eclectic and the man is a mystery. Presenting the many faces of J Hus

THE MUSO
'Common Sense' pinballs between a wild selection of styles including grime, dancehall, reggae, Atlanta rap, Ghanaian hiplife and many more. This is the sound of a music obsessive let loose in the studio.

THE PARTY DUDE
There's a lyric from the track 'Did You See' that's inspired by a night baller J Hus had in real life: "*Came in a black Benz / Left in a white one*". Although he's a student of music, the man likes to let his hair down (although you can't always tell beneath the fishing hat).

THE WELL-CONNECTED MOGUL
He's worked with everyone from Stormzy ('Bad Boys') to man-of-the-hour Burna Boy ('Good Time'), while Skepta has revealed he rates the relative newcomer. And Skeppy loves greatness only.

THE SHOWMAN
When he performed in London last year, the rapper entered the stage from inside a 10ft tall fishing hat (his trademark) and had four Mercedes-Benz cars on stage. The man does not do things by halves.

BEST COLLABORATION

SUPPORTED BY BBC1

CRAIG DAVID & BASTILLE 'I KNOW YOU'

How Dan and Craig cooked up a winner

IT'S THE PERFECT TUNE FOR RIGHT NOW
"Hip-hop is leaning into that place where hip-hop and R&B joins," says Craig. "If you were there the first time round, you look now and think, 'This is the 2000s playing out again'. That's why it's ripe for us to do what we're doing together. Right now it's a good time for both of our styles of music."

DAN WAS INSPIRED BY CRAIG'S LONGEVITY
Dan Smith admires his friend's ability to remain relevant over two decades. "People who have long careers, there's a humility to them," says the Bastille singer. "What's been impressive is watching [Craig] work with new producers and artists, and pushing himself. It's important to always imagine you're a new act with something to prove."

AND CRAIG LEARNED TO LET GO OF THE PAST
It would be hard for Craig to carry the baggage of his 2000 megahit 'Born To Do It' – so he's not even going to try. "Don't worry about that early stuff," he says. "When you're happy that someone could hear 'I Know You' and that be the first song they've ever heard [from me] – I'm cool with that. It's a beautiful journey."

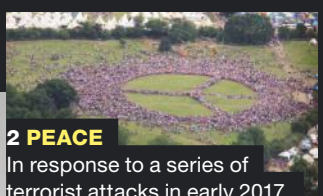
BEST FESTIVAL

SUPPORTED BY ID&C idcband.com

GLASTONBURY

Five mega moments from Glasto 2017

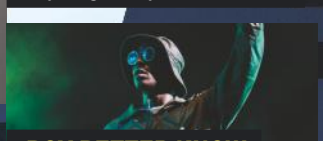
1 CORBYN
J-Corbz hit up Worthy Farm to give a 20-minute speech to a giant crowd. Here are 16 of his most inspirational words: "I want to see a world where there is real opportunity for everybody in our society." Believe!



2 PEACE
In response to a series of terrorist attacks in early 2017, 15,000 Glasto-goers formed an enormous peace symbol at the Stone Circle.

3 LORDE
Performing inside a giant box, Lorde played out the themes of 'Melodrama' in thrillingly conceptual style on the Other Stage. No one matched her.

4 THE KILLERS
Ten years after headlining, The Killers returned to play a secret set, performing classics such as 'Mr Brightside' alongside new single 'The Man'. You were lucky to get anywhere near it.



5 BOY BETTER KNOW
A year after grime properly carved out a space for itself at Glasto, BBK played the Other Stage's most exciting set. "F**king love you lot", Skepta said. The feeling was mutual.

BEST FILM

SUPPORTED BY ZIG-ZAG

BABY DRIVER

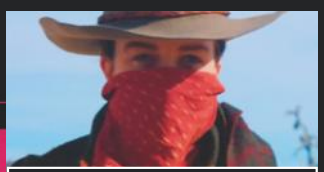
The best musical cameos

SKY FERREIRA
Sings Commodores' 'Easy' as Baby's mother in a flashback.

BIG BOI AND KILLER MIKE
Blink and you'll miss these two in a restaurant scene.

FLEA
The Red Hot Chili Peppers bassist steps up as gang member Eddie 'No-Nose'.

JON SPENCER
The icon plays a prison guard and his awesome tune 'Bellbottoms' opens the movie.



BEST MUSIC VIDEO

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THE BIG MOON 'SUCKER'

Three reasons the vid is hilarious

1 THE WILD WEST SETTING
Like *Westworld*, but with stick-on moustaches and a soundtrack about friendship.

2 EVERY MEMBER OF THE BAND HAS A COOL PART
Bassist Celia plays a femme fatale, drummer Fern is a lechy man in black, singer Juliette gets to be the revenant hero while guitarist Soph shows off her comedy range with her parts as multiple townspeople.

3 THERE'S A TWIST
After the tense standoff, there's a cheeky reveal that underlines the song's BFF message.

NME AWARDS 2018

NME ICON

SHIRLEY MANSON

In the Garbage legend's own words

THE SISTERHOOD
"This feels like a stamp of honour for women in the music industry. We're struggling so much, and there's such a small percentage of us involved in any level really. It's great for other young women to watch older, more established musicians get acknowledged for their careers. That can only be a good thing. You are who you see. I'm really concerned about the percentage of young women getting involved in music. It cannot remain a male playground, it has to change."

THE MUSIC
"We went through a period in our career where we almost became public and media property – but Garbage is us. I just wanna try to explore the world through our own lens. That is a great privilege. I'm f**king over pleasing people. I'm all about pleasing my curiosity."

THE ACTIVISM
"With PETA, I've always been obsessed with trying to protect animals and giving them a better existence. My dream job is to work for the World Wildlife Fund. And as for Girls Rock London, they're an inspiration. The idea of getting more women involved in music is so important to me. With LGBTQ rights, that's just common sense. It's just nuts that we think people are different just because they're choosing to have sex in a different position or up a different orifice. I have so many friends in that community, and the idea that they don't have the same rights as I do makes me insane. I don't view these things as activism. They don't require real effort – it's how I engage with the world."

THE ATTITUDE
"I think people are scared to say something because they don't necessarily know what's right or wrong. I think I have got a lot of common sense. That's just the way I've been brought up, I guess: just to be honest as I can be. I've tried to live my life like that. Sometimes it offends people and sometimes people think I should shut the f**k up, but I don't believe anyone. You should speak up when you see something unjust happen."

NMENMENM

AND LAST, BUT IN NO WAY LEAST...

BEST BOOK
WILEY 'ESKIBOY'

BEST TV SHOW
STRANGER THINGS 2

BEST REISSUE
RADIOHEAD 'OKNOTOK'

BEST SMALL FESTIVAL
FESTIVAL NO. 6

MUSIC MOMENT OF THE YEAR
ONE LOVE MANCHESTER

BEST MUSIC FILM
GAGA 'FIVE FOOT TWO'

HERO OF THE YEAR
ARIANA GRANDE

VILLAIN OF THE YEAR
PIERS MORGAN

FOR WAAAAAY MORE INFO ON THE VO5 NME AWARDS 2018, HEAD TO NME.COM/AWARDS

RADAR

THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

Best NEW tracks
And when to drop them

BEST FOR STARTING THE CIRCLE PIT
TURNSTILE
I Don't Wanna Be Blind
This is what hardcore sounds like in 2018: a lot like it did in 1988, but with a fresh fury.

BEST FOR SWAGGERING
TOMMY GENESIS
Lucky
About-to-be-huge Canadian pop star Tommy is on tour with Dua Lipa and makes sick, slick tunes like this.

BEST FOR UNWANTED ADMIRERS
MARSHMELLO AND ANNE-MARIE
Friends
Play this song at full blast to suitors who won't take 'f**k off' for an answer.

BEST FOR STROKES SESSIONS
ALBERT HAMMOND JR
Muted Beatings
A fast, furious and addictive solo outing for The Strokes guitarist, taken from his upcoming fourth album.

BEST FOR BUSTING A MOVE
PARK HOTEL
Good People
NME 100 stars Park Hotel come over like a millennial Talking Heads on this post-funk dancefloor destroyer.

BEST FOR HAVING A CRY
CALUM SCOTT AND LEONA LEWIS
You Are The Reason
Queen Leona returns, turning Calum's solo track into a super-soppy ballad.

BEST FOR TOILING ON THE FARM
PJ HARVEY
An Acre Of Land
Taken from new film *Dark River*, this compelling English folk song is so haunting you'll be looking under your bed for monsters after you hear it.

BEST FOR WEATHERING THE STORM
PEACE
Power
Inspired by a giant thunderstorm, 'Power' sees the Brummie indie boys harnessing big crunchy guitars and mega choruses.

BEST FOR LAVA LAMP SHOPPING
MEIN
Earth Moon
Featuring members of The Horrors and The Black Angels, Mein do psychedelic grooviness very well indeed.

FOR MORE NEW MUSIC, GO TO NME.COM

BEST FOR SADDLING UP
GOAT GIRL
The Man
Fans of obscuro 1980s cowpunkers The Gun Club will go wild for this jangly slice of genius.

PHOTOS: HOLLY WHITTAKER, COLIN MEDLEY

Freezy does it

An odyssey of hip-hop, R&B, pop and beyond from the Dublin rapper

REJJIE SNOW
Dear Annie
★★★★★
RAP HEARTBREAK EPIC

IN THE AGE OF streaming, bloated album lengths are fast becoming the norm. Drake pioneered the art with his 20-track albatross 'Views' in 2016, while Migos' 'Culture II' clocks in at over an hour and 45 minutes. Rejjie Snow's 61-minute debut 'Dear Annie' is snappy by comparison. In fact, we could have gone for another hour. It's that good.

The album's length is no real surprise considering the grind Snow's been on to get to this point. After ditching a football scholarship, the Dublin-born artist released first EP 'Rejovich' in 2013. A flow of singles culminated in last year's 'The Moon & You' mixtape, but 'Dear Annie' manages to be a marvellous step up.

Over 20 tracks, the 24-year-old carves space to celebrate the dizzying heights and devastating lows of love. Openers 'Hello' and 'Rainbows' will get the butterflies fluttering, but bittersweet moments are just around the corner, with 'Egyptian Luvr' imploring you to cherish what you have because you never know when it will disappear.

The record largely feels like a celebration of Snow's journey to this point. On the funk-laden 'Annie' he boasts of having "*magic in my hands all day and all night*" and on 'Freestyle 4' gives himself a well-deserved pat on the back: "*I'm black, I'm weird, I'm proud*". Scandi-pop sensation Anna Of The North and Toronto producer Kaytranada are just two of the guests. The results? G-funk meets NSFW lyrics on 'LMFAO', laid-back jazz rules on 'The Rain' while there are hints of Tame Impala on the glorious closing track 'Greatness'.

'Dear Annie' is a stunning odyssey through hip-hop, R&B, pop and beyond, one that will lend itself to both wintry nights in and blissed-out parties this summer. He may have hung up his football boots, but Snow's scored a belter on his debut record. **Thomas Smith**

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Protest goes pop

On which Meg Remy distils female rage into something woozy, hypnotic and powerful

US GIRLS
In A Poem Unlimited
★★★★☆
RAGE WOOZE POP

'IN A POEM Unlimited' might be Toronto-based musician and artist Meg Remy's sixth studio album under the US Girls name, but it's entirely likely you've never heard of her. Decidedly under the radar, she's spent the past decade or so crafting music from the fringes. Until now. On this very modern protest album, she's managed to distil the bubbling female rage that's finally become headline news and created a woozy, hypnotic album that's rooted in electronica and dreamy, jazzy interludes, but also manages to encompass disco, funk, soul, dub, trip-hop, art-pop, noise-rock, industrial and quite a lot of ABBA.

Despite its soft delivery and irrepressible Minnie Riperton groove, opener 'Velvet 4 Sale' cuts to the quick, its powerful first line ("*You've been sleeping with one eye open because he always could come back, you know / And you've been walking these streets unguarded waiting for any man to explode*") likely to ring true with more women than it should in 2018. 'MAH' – an anti-war anthem that skips between Bowie and Blondie with infectious glee – takes Meg's politics onto the sparkly dancefloor of Studio 54, while the propulsive 'Pearly Gates' conflates religion and abuse of male power over skittering old-school beats and a tune that brilliantly resembles Snoop Dogg's 'Gin And Juice'.

Powerful, potent and bloody good for dancing to, 'In A Poem Unlimited' might just be the soundtrack to the revolution. **Leonie Cooper**

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FILM

A beautiful dark twisted fairytale

An otherworldly masterpiece from master of weird Guillermo del Toro

THE SHAPE OF WATER
15 *Sally Hawkins, Octavia Spencer, Michael Shannon*

★★★★☆

SPACE HUMANOIDS LOVE

THROUGHOUT HIS career, Guillermo del Toro has developed a reputation for crafting some of Hollywood's most prominent oddities – from the dark fantasy of *Pan's Labyrinth* to the gothic romance of *Crimson Peak*.

FILM

Lady Bird (Saoirse Ronan) and Danny (Lucas Hedges)

Greta expectations

A clever and affecting triumph from writer-director Greta Gerwig

LADY BIRD
15 *Saoirse Ronan, Laurie Metcalf, Timothée Chalamet*

★★★★★

ANGST AMBITION AWKWARDNESS

WRITER-DIRECTOR Greta Gerwig has downplayed suggestions that this film is strictly autobiographical, saying, "Nothing in the movie literally happened in my life, but it has a core of truth that resonates with what I know." But because *Lady Bird* has so many relatable moments and effortlessly compelling performances, it often feels completely real.

Christine McPherson (Saoirse Ronan) is a high school senior who prides herself on being different from her family

But it's *The Shape Of Water* that may well prove to be his masterpiece, with the Mexican auteur crafting a magnificently twisted tale that is somewhere in between *Beauty And The Beast* and *The Creature From The Black Lagoon*.

Set against the backdrop of the US-Soviet Space Race, *The Shape Of Water* sees Sally Hawkins deliver an Oscar-worthy turn as Elisa, a mute cleaner who develops the unlikeliest of relationships with a mysterious humanoid that is housed at the government facility where she works. However, it isn't long before their risky relationship puts them at odds with Michael Shannon's sadistic colonel who initially pulled the creature from a South American river.

In the hands of del Toro, the strangest of premises is transformed into one of the most consistently beautiful love stories to have played out on the big screen in years – and it's largely down to the strong sense of innocence and humanity that stops it from playing out like an interspecies freak show.

Hawkins, too, has never been better, anchoring the film with an incredibly powerful performance as she lets her face do all the talking.

Ultimately, del Toro's masterpiece is an utter triumph in finding love and humanity in the most unlikely of places – and it asks us to do exactly the same. **Nick Reilly**

Elisa (Sally Hawkins) with the humanoid (Doug Jones)

and friends. She insists they call her "Lady Bird" because it sounds more bohemian than her birth name, and snobbishly dismisses her hometown, Sacramento, as "the Midwest of California". Her overworked mother, Marion (played by *Roseanne*'s Laurie Metcalf), wants her to attend a local college to save money, but Lady Bird is determined to apply to fancier establishments on the East Coast, despite her patchy academic record. While butting heads with her mum, and working out which school clique she belongs in, Lady Bird enjoys romantic dalliances with a pretentious indie boy (*Call Me By Your Name*'s Timothée Chalamet) and a conflicted musical theatre kid (*Manchester By The Sea*'s Lucas Hedges).

Though *Lady Bird* is a coming-of-age story with familiar tropes such as prom night and a disappointing first sexual experience, it's really a film about teenage aspiration. Gerwig understands the gap between the person you are and the person you dream of becoming. Ronan and Metcalf are heartbreaking as a mother and daughter who can't quite meet in the middle, but *Lady Bird* enthrals because its smaller roles are also beautifully played. It's a clever, affecting film that's a total pleasure to watch. **Nick Levine**

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Under the RADAR

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

Yxng Bane

East London rapper who's ready to dominate the charts

SELF-DESCRIBED AS "experimental, authentic and very original", East London's Yxng Bane is on track to be 2018's breakout rapper. With banging new single 'Vroom Vroom' on the horizon, the 21-year-old describes his ascent so far and taking his dad clubbing in Beefa.

What's been your maddest experience so far?
"Probably playing in Nigeria. I didn't have any expectations, it was more about the experience of going there, and then I saw the reaction in the crowd and how interested [they were] and [how] well they knew the songs, and just had a great night."

Is your family also loving your musical success?
"I've got a baby sister who's three years old and knows all the lyrics to everything. They've been very supportive. They come to all the shows. I brought my dad to Ibiza when I had a show there!"

Did you take him on a night out?
"Yeah, I took him on a night out. And I took him to a show, so he saw me perform in front of thousands of people, so he can't complain! He went before when he was younger, so him going now was a bit different… I think he enjoyed it."

Looking to the future, what's your biggest career aspiration?
"It's just always to give 110 per cent and to really push myself. And obviously you can set targets like a Grammy, or a this or a that, everybody aspires to that – but it's more about taking it day by day and trying to better myself in anything that I'm doing." **Hannah Mylrea**

DETAILS

From: Canning Town, London
Social: @YxngBane
Buy: Single 'Corner' is out now
Live: Academy 2, Birmingham (22 Mar), Gorilla, Manchester (23 Mar), Islington Assembly Hall, London (28 & 29 Mar)

STRANGE BUT TRUE

His name was inspired by the villain in *The Dark Knight Rises* – even though he hadn't even seen the *Batman* film when he picked it

FOR FANS OF

Best track

'CORNER'
This Maleek Berry team-up is a slick slice of club-ready Afro Bashment.

PHOTOS: JAKE HATELEY, OLIVIA ROSE, GETTY IMAGES

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THIS WEEK'S BEST TICKETS AND GIGS

M.I.A-zing

Bestival's first line-up announcement is a cracker

LAST YEAR BESTIVAL moved from its former home, the Isle of Wight, to Dorset's Lulworth Estate. Building on the success of that edition, the Rob da Bank-curated festival has announced its first set of names for the 2018 bill, led by the Sunday headliner M.I.A., who Bestival-goers can be sure will treat them to a string of massive tunes, from 'Paper Planes' to 'Bad Girls' and cuts from her 'final' album, 2016's 'AIM'.

Elsewhere, Saturday's headliners are London Grammar, while fast-rising singer Jorja Smith heads up Thursday at the Big Top – and there are plenty more exciting names to fill up your clash-finder, from veterans Chaka Khan and Grace Jones to hotly tipped new artists such as IAMDDB and Hak Baker.

FESTIVAL

BESTIVAL 2018

Lulworth Estate, Dorset

AUGUST 2-5

LINE-UP HIGHLIGHTS: M.I.A., Jorja Smith, Chaka Khan, Plan B, Mura Masa, Stefflon Don, London Grammar, IAMDDB, Kelela, Django Django, Not3s, Mabel, Bicep, Faithless.

TICKETS: £161 early bird tickets

ON SALE NOW

KAMASI WASHINGTON

Jazz don

MAY

Wed 2 Roundhouse, London. **Fri 4** Albert Hall, Manchester. **Sat 5** Queen Margaret Union, Glasgow. **Sun 6** Big Top, Cheltenham.

TELL ME MORE: The saxophonist was part of the team that made Kendrick Lamar's 'To Pimp A Butterfly' so very funky.

TICKETS: £25-£31.75

ON SALE NOW

KELELA

Alternative R&B singer

FEBRUARY

Sun 18 Academy, Manchester. **Thu 22** Roundhouse, London. **Fri 23** SWX, Bristol.

TELL ME MORE: The Washington D.C. star is touring her debut studio album 'Take Me Apart'.

TICKETS: £12.88-£20.92

ON SALE NOW

THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

ALVVAYS
Fri 16 Trinity, Bristol. **Sun 18** O2 ABC, Glasgow. **Mon 19** Academy, Manchester. **Wed 21** Church, Leeds. **Thu 22** O2 Academy, Leicester.

ANNIE MAC, CHAMPION, MC SERIOUS, A.G
Sat 17 KOKO, London.

BLUSHES
Wed 21 The Waiting Room, London.

CATHOLIC ACTION
Tue 20 Think Tank? Underground, Newcastle. **Wed 21** The Cellar, Oxford. **Thu 22** Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham.

DUSKY
Sat 17 Gorilla, Manchester.

FRANZ FERDINAND
Fri 16 O2 Academy, Newcastle. **Sat 17** O2 Academy, Glasgow. **Mon 19** O2 Academy & Underground, Leeds. **Tue 20** O2 Academy, Birmingham. **Wed 21** O2 Academy, Bristol.

FOUR TET
Fri 16 Barrowland, Glasgow. **Mon 19, Tue 20, Wed 21 & Thu 22** Village Underground, London.

HER'S
Wed 21 Boileroom, Guildford.

IRON & WINE
Fri 16 Eventim Apollo, London.

JESSIE WARE, SUNFLOWER BEAN, WESLEE
Thu 22 The Jazz Café, London.

KELELA
Sun 18 Academy, Manchester. **Thu 22** Roundhouse, London.

KENDRICK LAMAR
Tue 20 SSE Arena Wembley, London.

KING GIZZARD & THE WIZARD LIZARD
Wed 21 O2 Academy Brixton, London. **Thu 22** Academy, Manchester.

KHALID
Sat 17 Academy, Manchester. **Sun 18** O2 Academy, Glasgow.

LAURA MISCH
Tue 20 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham. **Thu 22** Headrow House, Leeds.

NATALIE IMBRUGLIA
Fri 16 RNCM, Manchester.

NICK HAKIM
Fri 16 King Tut's, Glasgow. **Sat 17** Deaf Institute, Manchester.

THE ORIELLES
Sat 17 Yellow Arch Studios, Sheffield. **Sun 18** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham. **Tue 20** Crofters Rights, Bristol. **Wed 21** The Joiners, Southampton.

PUMA BLUE
Mon 19 Castle Hotel, Manchester. **Tue 20** Headrow House, Leeds. **Wed 21** Omeara, London. **Thu 22** The Hope & Ruin, Brighton.

REBECCA FERGUSON
Fri 16 De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea. **Sat 17** UEA, Norwich. **Sun 18** University, Hull. **Tue 20** Tyne Theatre & Opera House, Newcastle. **Thu 22** William Aston Hall, Wrexham.

THE SHERLOCKS
Fri 16 Victoria Warehouse, Manchester.

SON LUX
Tue 20 Scala, London.

SPRING KING
Fri 16 Fruit, Hull.

WILEY
Wed 21 Academy, Manchester. **Thu 22** O2 Institute, Birmingham.

WILKINSON
Fri 16 O2 Academy Brixton, London. **Sat 17** O2 Academy, Bournemouth.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, REX FEATURES

Soundtrack of my life

Dita Von Teese

Burlesque star

THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING

HALL & OATES

Sara Smile

"I remember it playing at my parents' house when they brought my new little sister home and her name was Sarah. My mum listens to a lot of David Bowie and Barbra Streisand and all those '50s songs."

THE FIRST BAND I FELL IN LOVE WITH

THE CURE

"Someone mentioned their name and I thought, 'Oh, I wanna be cool and listen to that too'. It must have been when I was around 11. It was a pretty good choice, because they're arguably the best band that there ever was."

THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

THE JACKSON 5

"I won tickets on the radio to see the Jacksons. My dad was out of work at the time and I think my mom was giving me the choice of, 'Do you want to sell the tickets to make money for the family?' I was, like a lot of little girls, completely in love with Michael Jackson, so my mom's like, 'We're going'. It was really still the most amazing thing I've ever seen."

THE SONG THAT MADE ME WANT TO PERFORM

BOBBY DARIN

Beyond The Sea

"In the early '90s, I had this 80-year-old man teach me how to swing dance and he played 'Beyond The Sea'. I always think about these dance lessons and how they kind of changed my life. The swing dance scene was just emerging in the LA area and it was a huge moment."

THE SONG I CANT GET OUT OF MY HEAD

ANYTHING BY KATY PERRY

"Katy Perry songs really get stuck in your head. I'll be like, 'No wonder this is a hit – it sticks in people's minds and they have no choice.'"

THE MUSIC THAT MAKES ME DANCE

ELECTRONICA

"Having an invitation in 1990 to a party in Los Angeles and going to my first rave and taking my first hit of ecstasy was my gateway to electronic music. My mind was blown. I was 18 or 19 and it was life-changing. It was such a wild scene. I'm still close to all those people that have been around forever on the rave scene."

THE ARTIST THAT REMINDS ME OF HOME

GEORGE MICHAEL

"I think his music is so beautiful and his 'Listen Without Prejudice' album is still my most praised album of all time. He filmed me for visuals for his last few tours – he had me performing my burlesque shows on a huge screen behind him. Probably my most star-struck moment of all time was meeting and spending time with George. He was so funny. Very handsome and sexy. Every time I was around him, I just thought, 'I'm so in awe'. I could never act normal."

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THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

DOLLY PARTON AND KENNY ROGERS

Islands In The Stream

"I'll do it privately with close friends but I will not do it publicly – I do not want to end up on YouTube doing a karaoke song! I like a duet. I usually do 'Islands In The Stream' or 'The Girl Is Mine', which is Paul McCartney and Michael Jackson."

Dita Von Teese's self-titled debut album is out February 16

LAST WORD

The wisdom of the *NME* archives

THIS WEEK

MIKE PATTON

Faith No More

February 18, 1995

"It's supposed to be real cleansing, drinking your own piss."

INTERVIEW: LEONIE COOPER. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES